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Chapter 87

Passing Time

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

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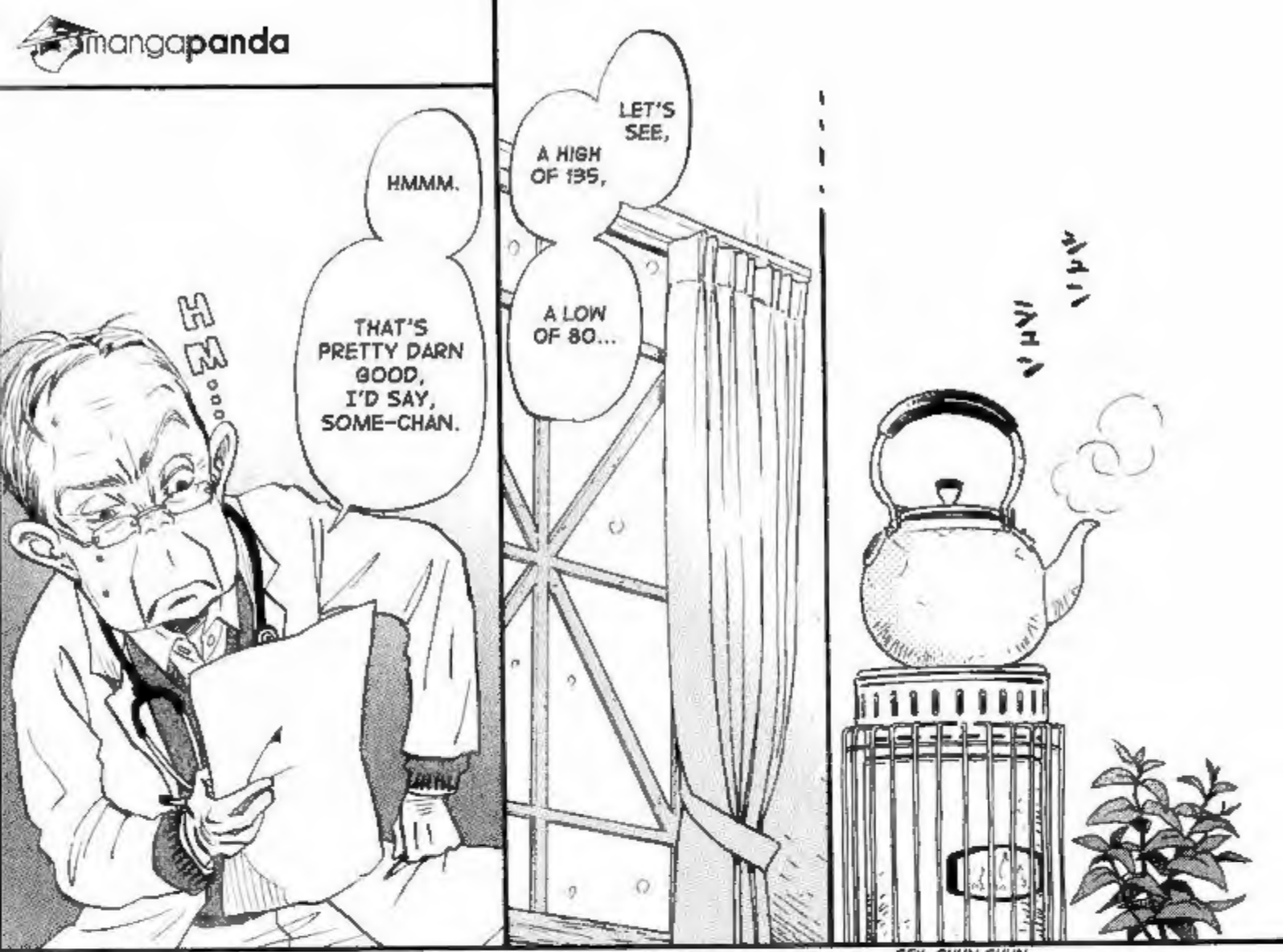
LET'S SEE,
A HIGH OF 135,
A LOW OF 80...
SFX: SHUN SHUN
HMMM.
THAT'S PRETTY DARN GOOD, I'D SAY, SOME-CHAN.
HM...

NICE!
EVEN I IMPRESS MYSELF!!
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE'S GONE DOWN CONSIDERABLY, BUT I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE TAKING THE MEDICATION I GIVE YOU.
SURE!
LAY IT ON ME!! GIMME ABOUT 3 MONTHS' WORTH!
YOU IDIOT, I CAN'T GIVE YOU THAT MUCH!!
YOU'LL GET 3 WEEK'S WORTH. COME BACK AGAIN NEXT MONTH AS USUAL.
DANG. AH WELL. GUESS I'LL BE COMING BACK THEN!!

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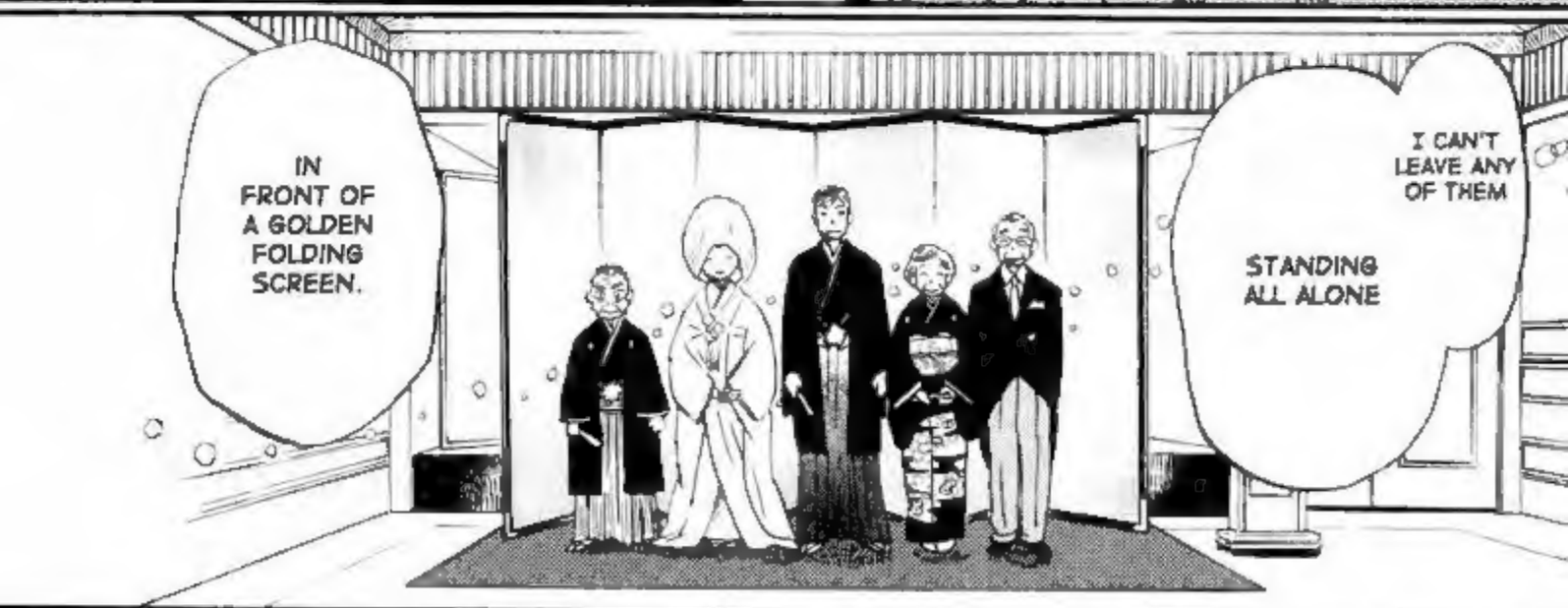
THOUGH YOU REALLY HAVE CHANGED, SOME-CHAN.
NOT TOO LONG AGO, YOU WOULD'VE SAID 'I DON'T NEED TO SEE NO DOCTOR!'
OR 'I'LL LIVE AND DIE THE WAY I WANT!!'
IT'S BECAUSE YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER LEFT YOU WITH THOSE THREE GIRLS, ISN'T IT...?



T/N: GOLDEN FOLDING SCREENS ARE OFTEN USED AS DECORATIONS IN WEDDING CEREMONIES.

WELL, SHE'S STILL IN KINDER-GARTEN.
KYAAA
THE YOUNG-EST CHILD... HOW OLD IS SHE AGAIN?
EVEN IF SHE LEFT AT AGE 20 I'D BE... 90... AND A HALF I THINK...
Kinder-gatener
Balls of Mud
IF YA'S GET MARRIED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, IT'D REALLY HELP ME OUT.
MOMO ...
BUT...
SOME-CHAN...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH OVER YOU TILL THEN...
SORRY, SOME-CHAN...
SFX: SHUN SHUN UUUUNNN...

IT'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE EVEN SCORING OVER 80% ON THOSE PROOF QUESTIONS YOU WERE BAD AT.
YOU DID EVERY-THING YOU COULD TO GET READY.
UUuuuu
I'm so nervou~~s!
HAAA
So bad they're crying
The anxiety is contagious
FIVE MORE DAYS TO THE EXAMS.
2 February
YOU CAN PRACTICE SOME OF THOSE TYPES OF PROBLEMS AGAIN.
—AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU FEEL TROUBLED BY,
LET'S DO SOME OVERALL REVIEWING FROM HERE
SFX: KYUH

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OH,

RIGHT.

TAKAHASHI-KUN

SAID HE DECIDED HE WAS GOING TO KOUCHI PRIVATE SCHOOL IN SHIKOKU WHICH HE WAS REFERRED TO.

'PASHA'

When

I saw her face looking like a surprised young child

I...

It felt like

AHH...
What did I just do?
With her exams this close...
SFX: ZAA...
'Shikoku...'
'He's going that far away...?'
'He'd... told me that... a little while back...'
—I thought she already knew.
I wish I hadn't said anything.
'I... I'd heard he was going to Meitei High School...'

I'd accidentally

cracked open a small egg.

HELLO GRANNY YAMADA!
OH, HINA-CHAN -- OUT SHOPPING?
WHAT A MATURE YOUNG LADY YOU ARE.
-- was Taka-hashi-kun, wasn't it...?

THE SCENERY OF THIS NEIGH-BORHOOD,
THIS TOWN,
IT HASN'T CHANGED SINCE I WAS A KID.

AH,
CURRY SMELL...

—AND THE END OF THE SHOPPING'S ...
牛乳のタカハシ

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Takahashi-kun loves curry.

He must be happy.

I guess they're having curry at Takahashi's tonight.

—Oh, yeah.

Shikoku, huh?
That's so far...
Mom, and grandma
And Iwate where Chicho is
and dad, too.
—is far, too.
—and then get surprised.
the people I have, just like always
and I'll always be able to see
I think that the tomorrow I'm expecting will come just the way I expect it to
It's always like that.
It's always,
like this...
always,
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SORRY. THERE'S A PARTY AT AUNTIE'S SHOP AND THEY'RE SHORT STAFFED. .
I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN
Is Momo going to sleep over at Ojii-chan's ?
OKAY
KIRIYAMA-KUN, ARE YOU REALLY SURE?
IT'S FINE.
I'LL BE HERE UNTIL YOU GET BACK, AKARI-SAN
AFTER ALL, YOU HELPED ME OUT SO MUCH LAST YEAR

SFX GUSU ZU.

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SFX BUSHUN GOSHI GOSHI. (WIPE WIPE)
SFX ZUZU.. ZUH..
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY FEVER DOESN'T GO DOWN?
WHAT IF I
FORGET ALL THE THINGS I LEARNED ...?
YOU WON'T FORGET
YOU'LL DO FINE
IN A LITTLE BIT, HOW ABOUT YOU HAVE SOME MORE RICE PORRIDGE AND TAKE SOME MEDICINE?
JUST REST UNTIL THEN
HU
O OKAY
UU.
OKAY,
IT SHOULD BE EASIER TO GET TO SLEEP IF IT'S DARK, SO I'M CLOSING THE DOOR
OKAY
I'LL BE RIGHT HERE IN THE NEXT ROOM.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT, CALL ME, OKAY?

OKAY.
— And on the morning of the exams her fever had gone down considerably and she ended up at just over 37 degrees.
HINAA!
KIRIYAMA-KUN IS HERE TO SEE YOU~~!
HUUH?! REI-CHAN?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE!
I'LL BE FINE!
IT'S OKAY, I HAVE TODAY OFF
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
ANYHOW, I CAME HERE TO GET YOU GUYS, HINA-CHAN!
We don't have class today.
OH, OKAY
GOOD LUCK, HINA!
BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DON'T SLI-
SLIP
ZOOM
So long!!
ER- DON'T FALL, OKAY?!!
OKAY, BYE BYE!!

T/N: THE WORD FOR "SLIP" CAN BE SLANG FOR FAILING OR BOMBING AN EXAM.

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I was thinking about the people that had disappeared from my life.
The whole time
I was sick,

SFX: ZUZUH...
...
THANK YOU...
And I couldn't stop crying...
I'LL CARRY YOUR BAG.
HUH?
NO, I GOT IT.
IT COULD BE DANGER-OUS. THE ROAD IS ICY.
C'MON.

But...
HUH?
Hmm
THAT, FEELS LIKE SOMETHING SOMEBODY ELSE TOLD ME ONCE...
KIRIYAMA-KUN...
YOU'RE KIND OF LIKE A MOM.

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Rei-chan had suddenly appeared in my life.

that's right.

— Yeah, but,

— Yeah.

Not everyone has gone far away.

Not everyone has disappeared.

I can't

Chapter 87 END

forget that.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 9

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